

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121270
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /035 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RLKATES:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
AF/P R.HOLLIDAY (INFO)

-----080405 121443Z /72

R 120159Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CG, AO, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN
ANGOLA

REF: STATE 117357

1. IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "ANGOLA: CHARGES PROMPT NEW
LOOK AT U.S. ROLE" WHICH APPEARED IN MAY 10 EDITION OF
WASHINGTON POST, DAVID OTTAWAY OPINES THAT WHEN WHOLE PIC-
TURE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA COMES TO LIGHT, "IT
IS LIKELY THAT THE BLAME WILL FALL AS HEAVILY ON ZAIRE AND
THE WESTERN-BACKED NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF
ANGOLA AS ON THE CIA." OTTAWAY GOES ON TO SAY THAT
"AMERICAN FUNDS AND ARMS DESTINED FOR THE NATIONAL FRONT
WERE BEING SIPHONED OFF ALONG THE PIPELINE BY ZAIRIAN
ARMY OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS THE

FRONT'S OWN INEFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP." THE AUTHOR ALSO
CHARGES THAT ONE REASON THE FNLA DID NOT MAKE A
BETTER SHOWING IN THE FACE OF THE CUBAN/MPLA ASSAULT IN
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EARLY 1976 WAS THAT "THE ZAIRIANS PULLED OUT THEIR MILITARY
EQUIPMENT LEAVING THEIR ALLY WITH ONLY SMALL ARMS TO DEAL
WITH TANKS AND ROCKETS...ANOTHER REASON WAS THAT ZAIRIAN
OFFICERS SERVING IN NORTHERN ANGOLA OR (FNLA) CAMPS IN
ZAIRE STOLE AND RESOLD LARGE QUANTITIES OF AMERICAN ARMS
EARMARKED FOR THE FRONT." OTTAWAY CONCLUDED WITH HYPOTHE-

SES THAT PERHAPS ONE REASON WHY CIA DID NOT REPRIMAND
MOBUTU FOR SIPHONING OFF FUNDS WAS THE POOR STATE OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND KINSHASA IN THE SUMMER
OF 1975.

2. DESPITE FLURRY OF PRESS ARTICLES ON SUBJECT, ONLY
QUESTIONS ASKED IN NOON BRIEFING WERE THOSE MENTIONED
REFTEL.

3. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, ARMED FORCES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE121270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLKATES:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780202-0476
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780563/aaaacbug.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e33969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 117357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2705505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA
TAGS: MOPS, CG, AO, US, CIA, (OTTAWAY, DAVID)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e33969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014